REMARKS

This response is in reply to the Office Action of April 22, 2004. Reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

Objections: Claims 9-10

The Examiner objects to claims 9 and 10 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

The Examiner asserts that the limitations of claims 9 and 10 describing the lighting device and diffuser are duplicates of limitations found in claim (1) and therefore do not further limit the claim (i.e., claim 1).

The Examiner is requiring one of the following actions:

(a) Cancelling the claims;

(b) Amending the claims to place the claims into proper dependent form; or

(c) Rewriting the claims in independent form.

In response, the applicants have cancelled claims 9 and 10 without prejudice. The applicants have not abandoned the subject matter of claims 9 and 10 and reserve the right to file a continuation application directed thereto.

At the outset, prior to addressing the rejections over the prior art, the applicants respectfully call to the Examiner's attention that claim 1 recites the limitation: --at least one diffuser which is located under said a plurality of input buttons--.

FIGS. 5 and 10 of the present application disclose that the LED 7 is positioned below the bottom surface of the button 1. Therefore, the light from LED 7 is projected upward towards the lower surface of the button 1 towards the center of incidence portion 5.

However, on page 9, lines 9-10, it is disclosed with respect to FIG. 7 that each resin 8 is consisting of a diffuser having an incidence portion 5 and a projecting portion 6.

Therefore, the resin 8 is the diffuser and so the diffuser cannot be located under the plurality of buttons 1 since the resin 8 is itself the button 1. Consequently, the applicants have amended claim 1 to recite in part: --A portable telephone comprising a plurality of input buttons for inputting various indications;

at least one light emitting element which emits a light, when any one of said a plurality of input buttons is pushed on; said light emitting element located under said a plurality of input buttons, any one of said plurality of input buttons being a diffuser to diffuse said light emitted from said light emitting element;--.

No new matter has been added by the amendment to claim 1.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections: Claims 1, 4-5 and 8-10

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenmochi (US 5,18,842 - filed June 3, 1991 - issued July 7, 1992).

The Examiner asserts that Kenmochi, column 4, lines 17-41, discloses all of the limitations of claim 1, except for disclosing lighting the buttons when any one of said a plurality of input buttons is pushed on. The Examiner takes Official Notice by asserting that lighting buttons on a portable phone when a button is pressed is notoriously well known in the art.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Kenmochi discloses all of the limitations of claim 1 except for disclosing lighting the buttons when any one of said a plurality of input buttons is pushed on. The Examiner takes Official Notice that lighting buttons on a portable phone when a button is pressed is notoriously well known in the art to save battery power.

In response, the applicants call to the Examiner's attention that Kenmochi, in column 4, lines 16-19, and in FIG. 2, discloses that light emitting diodes (LED) 4 for the light source for the light concentrator are located at one side end or edge 14 of the thin plate 1 with a predetermined distance between them.

In contrast, in the present invention recited by claim 1, the light emitting element is disposed under the light-guide plates of the prior art, and therefore, in the present invention of claim 1, as a result, as can be seen from FIG. 10., the transmission light 15 is directed onto the center of the incidence portion 5 in the concave portion and into the diffuser (resin 8).

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kenmochi et al.

With respect to claim 4, the Examiner asserts that the same disclosure by Kenmochi discloses concave and convex are formed on a surface of said receiving plane of said incidence portion.

The Examiner asserts that Kenmochi discloses the limitations of claims 9 and 10 for the same reasons given for claim 1.

In that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kenmochi et al, claims 4, 5 and 8 also patentably distinguish over Kenmochi et al. As a result, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 over Kenmochi et al.

Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled thereby rendering the rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections: Claims 1, 3 and 7

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker et al (US 5,975,711 - filed June 9, 1997 - issued November 2, 1999).

The Examiner asserts that Parker et al, in column 6, lines 14-54, disclose all of the limitations of claim 1 except for, again as before, disclosing lighting the buttons when any one of a plurality of input buttons is pushed on. The Examiner again takes Official Notice as before.

In response, the applicants call to the Examiner's attention that Parker et al, in column 4, lines 41-56, and FIG. 3, disclose that the light sources 22 are embedded, potted or bonded in the optical focus sections 21 in order to eliminate any air gaps or air interface surfaces between the light sources and adjacent light transition areas 23.

Therefore, in that in the present invention recited by claim 1, the light emitting element is located under said a plurality of input buttons, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Parker et al, since as can be seen from FIG. 10, the transmission light 15 is directed onto the center of the incidence portion 5 in the concave portion and into the diffuser (resin 8).

In that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Parker et al, claims 3 and 7 also patentably distinguish over Parker et al. As a result, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 3 and 7 over Parker et al.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections: Claims 1, 2 and 6

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhfus (US 4,349,705 - filed May 6, 1981- issued September 4, 1982).

The Examiner asserts that Kuhfus, in column 3, lines 26-39, disclose all of the limitations of claim 1 except for, again as before, disclosing lighting the buttons when any one of a plurality of input buttons is pushed on. The Examiner again takes Official Notice as before.

In response, the applicants call to the Examiner's attention that Kuhfus, in column 3, lines 26-39, discloses the following:

> FIGS. 5 and 6 illustrate one form of encapsulated LED for positioning in the recesses 27. An LED is shown at 50, with a power limiting resistor at 51. Only the LED may be provided in the encapsulation, the resistor being provided elsewhere, for example on the PCB 10. Leads 52 provide for connection of electric power. The shape of the encapsulation 53, is such as to fit closely in the recesses 27. A reflecting top surface 54 is provided, the surface defined by a rotation of an arcuate surface about the central axis. The arcuate surface may be a true arc, or have a parabolic curve, or some other form. By this means, light emitted from the top surface of the LED is reflected sideways into the light-guide plate.

In Kuhfus, FIGS. 5 and 6, the LED 50 is disposed below the reflecting top surface 54 of the encapsulation 53. Kuhfus discloses that "By this means, light emitted from the top surface of the LED is reflected sideways into the light-guide plate *(25)*."

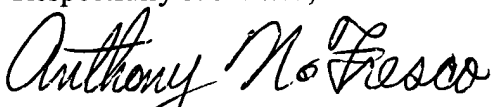
Kuhfus, column 1, lines 9-24, discloses that various arrangements exist for illuminating dials, including incandescent lamps mounted below the dial or lamps of LEDs mounted in the pushbuttons. Kuhfus further teaches that the power requirements for LEDs mounted in the pushbuttons are disadvantageous. Therefore, Kuhfus teaches away from locating the light emitting element under the diffuser.

Consequently, Kuhfus does not disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 of a diffuser including a projecting portion which has a reflecting plane for reflecting said light received by said incidence portion to an upper side of said a plurality of input buttons.

As a result, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kuhfus. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 2 and 6 over Kuhfus.

Reconsideration of this application based on the foregoing Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested. The foregoing Amendment and Remarks establish the patentability of the claims remaining in the application, i.e., claims 1-8. No new matter has been added. Wherefore, early and favorable reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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